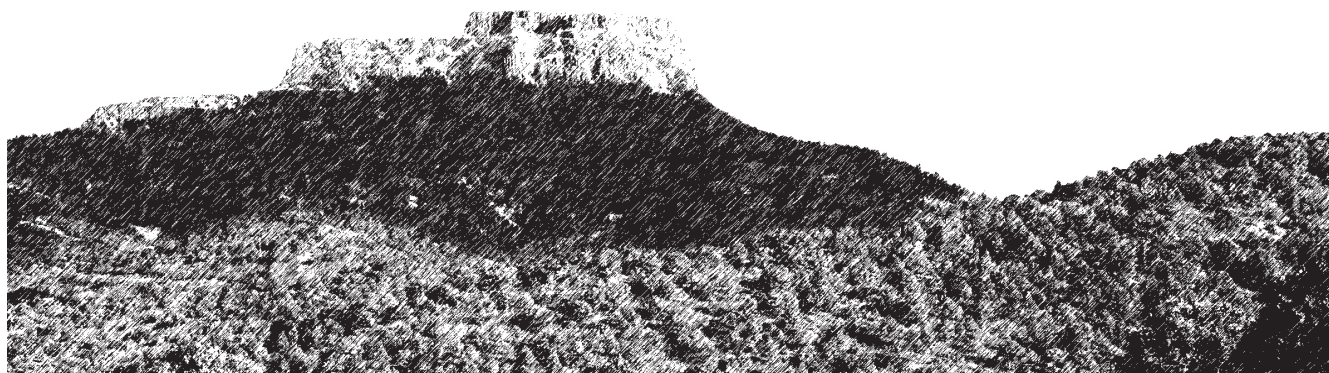


# OVER THE PASS



## TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTIONS

By **Tim Keller**  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

This week's question:

# “Where do cooks go out to dinner?”

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



“Chef Liu’s here in town and The Sands Restaurant in Raton. Their food is really good and fresh.” – Miguel Angel, Tequila’s (Trinidad)



“Chef Liu’s! I enjoy it! I’ve always been a Chinese fan.” – David Sisneros, K-Bob’s (Raton)



“I go out about once a week, usually to What’a Grind for sandwiches, and sometimes to Tequila’s.” – Michael Romero, Brix (Trinidad)



“The Red Robin in Colorado Springs for burgers and La Cosina for the best New Mexican food here in Raton.” – Danny Segura, The Icehouse Restaurant (Raton)



“Tequila’s, K-Bob’s, and the Icehouse. They all make good food. I go out about twice a month.” – Jesus Candelario, The Sands Restaurant (Raton)



“Fabilis Wings. They have 15 varieties, from mild to spicy, and Lisa’s good at cooking it the way you want it.” – Jessica Boyle, Rino’s (Trinidad)

## LOAN PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

# Ag Secretary announces increased opportunity for producers in New Farm Bill

Special to The Chronicle-News

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced increased opportunity for producers as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill.

“Our nation’s farmers and ranchers are the engine of the rural economy. These improvements to our Farm Loan Programs will help a new generation begin farming and grow existing farm operations,” said Secretary Vilsack. “Today’s announcement represents just one part of a series of investments the new Farm Bill makes in the next generation of agriculture, which is critical to economic growth in communities across the country.”

The Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue opera-

tions, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. Changes that will take effect immediately include:

- Elimination of loan term limits for guaranteed operating loans
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent; previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership down payments from \$225,000 to \$300,000
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans, allowing urban youth to benefit
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government
- Increase of the guarantee amount on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers
- Microloans will not count toward loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

## AGRICULTURE

# USDA encourages early registration for FSA programs

Special to The Chronicle-News

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia recommended that farmers and ranchers who plan to participate in FSA programs register in advance. Producers are encouraged to report farm records and business structure changes to a local FSA Service Center before April 15, 2014.

Enrollment for the disaster programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, including the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will begin by April 15, 2014.

“We expect significant interest in these programs,” said Garcia. “Early registration should help improve the sign-up process and allow us to expedite implementation of the programs. I strongly encourage producers to complete their paperwork ahead of time.”

Examples of updates or changes to report include:

- New producers or producers who have not reported farm records to FSA
- Producers who have recently bought, sold or rented land. Those producers need to ensure that changes have been reported and properly recorded by local FSA county office personnel. Reports of purchased or sold property should include a copy of the land deed, and if land has been leased,

then documentation should be provided that indicates the producer had/has control of the acreage.

Producers who have changed business structures (e.g. formed a partnership or LLC) need to ensure that these relationships and shares are properly recorded with FSA. Even family farms that have records on file may want to ensure that this is recorded accurately as it may impact payment limits.

Farm records can be updated during business hours at FSA Service Centers that administer the county where the farm or ranch is located. Producers can contact their local FSA Service Center in advance to find out what paperwork they may need. In addition, bank-account information should be supplied or updated if necessary to ensure that producers receive payments as quickly as possible through direct deposit.

While any producer may report farm records and business structure changes, it is especially important for producers who suffered livestock, livestock grazing, honeybee, farm-raised fish, or tree/vine losses for 2011, 2012, 2013 or 2014, and may be eligible for assistance through one of the four disaster programs.

For further information about our disaster programs and USDA’s Farm Bill implementation plan, visit FSA’s 2014 Farm Bill Web page. FSA Service Center locations can be found on the FSA website, [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



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**BINGO**

7:00p.m.  
Tuesday,  
April 1st

Doors Open @ 5:30p.m.  
205 South Commercial

50-50 Bingo Progressive Game

\*No one under 12 allowed  
\*No Checks accepted

**Ristras**  
Restaurant & Cantina  
TORTILLA FACTORY

Liz has returned from mommy and grandma duties!

Ristra's will be back to our regular scheduled hours, including extended summer hours!

Come in and celebrate the opening of our cantina starting April 3, featuring Ristra's signature cocktails! Watch for our express lunch menu with daily specials!

All customers will be eligible to enter to win giant chocolate Easter Bunny from I Love Sugar! Valued at \$200.00!

HOLA! Ristras

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